

Written response to: Business and Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Resolution: That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources provide Panel members with further information on the number of applications for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Written response from: Revenues and Benefits Operations Manager

Response: The table below tracks the caseload numbers for both CTRS and Housing Benefit at each quarter date during 2020.

Benefits Data:

	March 2020	June 2020	September 2020	December 2020
HB Caseload	4,628	4,529	4,419	4,291
Change from previous quarter		(99)	(110)	(128)
CTRS Caseload	7,714	7,846	7,680	7,614
Change from previous quarter		132	(166)	(66)

HB caseload is reducing, as housing costs support for new Working Age claims, is paid through Universal Credit.

CTRS rose initially and then since the Furlough scheme was extended, has been falling very slowly too. There is an expectation that the various High Street store closures and planned changes to the current furlough scheme may impact in late Qtr. 4 or early Qtr. 1 of 2021/22, but it is difficult to predict what will happen.

Date: 02 February 2021